

A general document recognition system is described which is intended to be used in connection with an electronic document transmission function used on a computer network. The general document recognition system is set up to recognize any number of document types created by application programs in the network and is also set up with rules as to how to extract destination data from each document type. The extracted data from each document can be the actual intended destination, such as a facsimile telephone number, or can be the identity of the intended recipient individual. If a recipient, rather than a destination, is extracted from the document, the general document recognition system can query a previously designated external data base to recover the destination information for that recipient. An LDAP data base is the preferred external data base for this function.

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